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Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba**Note verbale dated 19 February 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary General**

The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations, in its capacity as President Pro Tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), has the honour to request, on behalf of one of its members, that the document entitled "Special declaration on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", adopted by the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered at the third CELAC Summit, held in Belén, Costa Rica, on 28 and 29 January 2015, be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 40 (see annex).



Annex to the note verbale dated 19 February 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Special declaration on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Costa Rica on the occasion of the third Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held on 28 and 29 January 2015,

1. Express their strongest opposition to the coercive economic measures not supported by international law, including all those unilateral actions imposed on sovereign countries for political reasons, that impair the well-being of their peoples and are designed to prevent these countries from exercising their right to decide, by their own free will, their political, economic and social systems;

2. Reiterate their firm rejection of the application of laws and measures contrary to international law, such as the Helms-Burton Act, including its extraterritorial effect, and urge the Government of the United States of America to end its application;

3. Welcome the announcement made 17 December 2014 by the Presidents of the Republic of Cuba and of the United States of America, Raul Castro Ruz and Barack Obama, respectively, on the re-establishment of diplomatic relations. In the light of the declaration formulated by President Obama, we call on him to take all actions within his executive powers to substantially modify the embargo against Cuba and on the United States Congress to initiate, as soon as possible, a discussion on removing it;

4. Recall that, since 1992, the United Nations General Assembly has reiterated in 23 resolutions the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba by the Government of the United States of America and highlight the support given by 188 States Members of the United Nations to the most recent resolution, namely General Assembly resolution 69/5, adopted on 28 October 2014, and calls on the international community to maintain an identical attitude while the embargo against Cuba is in existence;

5. Reiterate their opinion that this embargo is contrary to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law;

6. Reiterate their deep concern at and rejection of the strengthening of the extraterritorial dimension of the embargo, as well as the increasing persecution of Cuba's international financial transactions, which is contrary to the political will of the international community;

7. Request the Government of the United States of America to fulfil the successive resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, and in response to the repeated calls from the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, which is contrary to international law, severely and unjustifiably damages the well-being of the Cuban people, and affects peace and coexistence among the nations of the Americas.